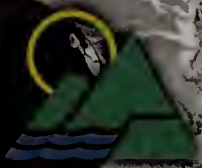


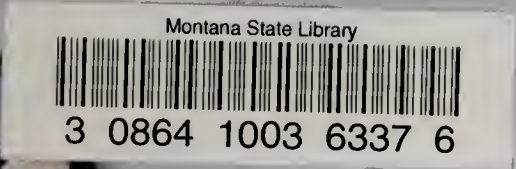
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Montana

State Parks

2006 Location and Activities Guide





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Three Great Reasons To Visit Montana State Parks

Events: From cultural and community events to speaker series and festivals, State Parks host many events. Some popular annual events include Buzzard Days, Bannack Days, Theater in the Park, Living History Days, Caverns Candlelight Tours, Lewis and Clark Festival, Native American Day, and Bannack Ghost Walks. Check our web site for lots of educational, entertaining and fun family opportunities.

Education: Our professional Parks interpretive staff can provide workshops, step-on guide service and day-long classes for your organized group. Topics are varied – from archeology to caves, habitat, the Montana Gold Rush and much more. Education trunks, complete with curriculum and lesson plans, can be loaned to classrooms for additional learning opportunities. Contact the park directly or click the “Education” button on our web site.

Group Fun: From family reunions to wedding parties to motorcoach tours, Montana State Parks can accommodate a wide array of group activities. Reservable covered shelters and camping areas are available at several locations. Any group over 30 requires a special use permit. Contact the park directly. Motorcoach tours require a special permit obtained from the Parks headquarters in Helena.



Park Activities Legend

As you read through this brochure, you’ll see the following icons that represent activities that are available at each park or location.



Camping



Picnic Area



Interpretive Displays



Visitors Center



Amphitheater



Restrooms



Hiking Trails



Swimming



Wildlife Viewing



Food Service



Showers

Cultural Sites

Montana History

Anaconda Smelter Stack The old Anaconda Copper Company smelter stack, completed in 1919, is one of the tallest free-standing brick structures in the world at 585 feet. The stack dominates the landscape like the Company once dominated the area's economic life. Since the smelter closed in 1980, the stack has become a symbol of the challenges that face communities dependent on finite resources. The Stack can be viewed at a distance, where interpretive signs detail its history.

Location: Viewing area at east end of Anaconda on 4th Street. Phone: 406-542-5500



Parker Homestead The sod-roofed log cabin, built in the early 1900s and now dwarfed by giant cottonwood trees, is representative of the thousands of simple frontier homes that provided shelter for the hopeful pioneers who settled Montana. Interpretive signage at the one-acre park offers a glimpse into one family's hardships and beauties. The site provides great photo opportunities and a quick visit to our past.

Location: 8 miles west of Three Forks on Montana Highway 2. Phone: 406-287-3541



Fort Owen This park is the site of many "firsts" in Montana history. It was home to Montana's first Catholic church founded by Father DeSmet in 1841 and the first permanent white settlement. Also located here were the state's first sawmill, first grist mill, first agricultural development, first water right and the first school. John Owen arrived in the Bitterroot Valley in 1850 and began trading with the Indians and growing number of immigrants. Interpretive signs and exhibits detail the site's history.

Location: 25 miles south of Missoula on U.S. Hwy 93 at Stevensville Junction, then .5 mile east on Secondary 269. Phone: 406-542-5500



Ghost Towns

Bannack - National Historic Landmark Come walk the deserted streets of Bannack and listen to the stories the buildings have to tell. When gold was discovered in Grasshopper Creek in 1862, the strike set off a massive gold rush that swelled the town's population to over 3,000. When the gold ran out, the town died. Today, Bannack is preserved, rather than restored. Protected, rather than exploited. Over 50 buildings, weathered by the seasons, still stand making Bannack one of the best preserved of all Montana's ghost towns. Open all year with Saturday night programs Memorial Day - Labor Day; Bannack Days, a celebration of pioneer life on the third weekend in July; Ghost Walks around Halloween; and an ice skating rink in the winter. A tipi is available for overnight rental in the campground. Interpretive programs and exhibits.

Location: I-15 to exit 59 south of Dillon. West on Hwy. 278 for 17 miles, then 3.5 miles south. Elevation - 5,780 feet. Phone: 406-834-3413



Anaconda Smelter Stack

Parker Homestead

Fort Owen

Bannack Ghost Town

Elkhorn The residents of Elkhorn, a historic mining town of boom and bust, left behind two impressive structures. Fraternity Hall and Gillian Hall have been preserved as outstanding examples of frontier architecture. During its heyday in the 1880s, the town's population reached 2,500, but the boom ended in 1899 with the drop in silver prices. Please respect private property while visiting.

Location: Take Boulder exit off I-15, then 7 miles south on Montana 69, then 11 miles north on county graveled road. Elevation - 6,400 feet. Phone: 406-495-3260



Granite Nicknamed "Montana's Silver Queen," Granite had its heyday in the early 1890s. After Eli Holland found a piece of ruby white silver in 1872, the town quickly became a thriving city of 3,000. One of the most famous buildings was a large Miner's Union Hall with a large auditorium and the "Northwest's Finest Dance Floor." Today, the park is comprised of the Superintendent's House and the ruins of the Union Hall.

Location: 6 miles east of Philipsburg on forest road. Inquire locally about current road conditions and specific directions. Elevation - 7,000 feet. Phone: 406-542-5500



Native American

Chief Plenty Coups - National Historic Landmark Plenty Coups, the last traditional Chief of the Crow Nation, was a visionary that led his people from the "buffalo days" into the 20th century. He and his wife, Strikes the Iron, willed their log home, sacred spring and farmstead as a place for all cultures to come together in a cooperative nature. For an inspirational, educational and cultural experience, visit the Chief's two-story log cabin and modern interpretive center. The park also offers interpretive walking tours, gift shop, picnicking and many annual events. Museum open May - September or call for a tour appointment.

Location: One mile west of Pryor. Easily reached from Red Lodge, Billings, Hardin, and Cody, Wyoming. In Billings, take South Billings Boulevard Exit (#447) off I-90. Phone: 406-252-1289



Council Grove This park marks the location of the 1855 council between Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens and the Flathead, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille Indians. The council resulted in the Hellgate Treaty, which created the Flathead Indian Reservation. A beautiful monument commemorates this event. This park also offers unique bird watching opportunities, scenic picnic areas and excellent fishing access to the Clark Fork River.

Location: In Missoula, take Reserve Street 2 miles south of I-90, then 7.5 miles west on Mullan Road. Phone: 406-542-5500



MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2



Elkhorn

MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Granite

Travel Montana

MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Chief Plenty Coups



Council Grove



Pictograph Cave



Madison Buffalo Jump



Ulm Pishkun



Rosebud Battlefield

Pictograph Cave - National Historic Landmark

Prehistoric hunters camped in this spot as early as 10,000 years ago and left their mark on the cave walls as well as thousands of artifacts. Due to the passage of time, binoculars and a sense of curiosity will help in seeing the pictographs. A printed guide, signs and on-site staff assist visitors in understanding both the ancient use of the site and why Pictograph Cave is called "the birthplace of Montana Archeology." The paved trail includes some steep grades. There is also a shaded picnic area. Park open May - September or call for a tour appointment.

Location: In Billings, take Lockwood exit (#452) from I-90, then 6 miles south on county road. Phone: 406-247-2940



Madison Buffalo Jump

Before the arrival of the horse and gun, native peoples stampeded bison over this cliff to their death. The nomadic tribes then used all parts of the buffalo for their food, clothing and shelter. Hike to the top of the jump for impressive views of the Madison River valley and a peaceful experience of solitude.

Location: Take Logan exit 23 miles west of Bozeman on I-90, then 7 miles south on Buffalo Jump Road (an unpaved county road). Phone: 406-994-4042



Ulm Pishkun

One of the largest buffalo jump sites in the world, people gathered here for thousands of years to celebrate and feast. A modern visitor center, featuring buffalo mounts, exquisite dioramas and hands-on activities, explains the importance of the buffalo to the native people of the Plains. An interpretive trail describes the native prairie ecosystem still intact here. The top of this mile-long jump offers panoramic views of the Rocky Mountain Front, the Missouri River, and the buttes and grasslands that characterize this High Plains setting. Ulm Pishkun hosts many special events including interpretive talks, Native cultural festivals and the Native Traditional Games.

Location: Take Ulm exit 10 miles south of Great Falls on I-15, then 3.5 miles northwest on the Ulm-Vaughn county road. Phone: 406-866-2217



Rosebud Battlefield

On June 17, 1876, the hills and rocky outcroppings overlooking Rosebud Creek were the setting for one of the most intense battles ever waged between Native Americans attempting to retain their cultural way of life, and the United States Army. The titanic struggle lasted over 6 hours and encompassed an area over 10 square miles. Though tactically the battle was a draw, it turned out to be a strategic victory for the Sioux and Cheyenne. The success at Rosebud strengthened their resolve and bolstered their confidence for the battle that would occur eight days later in the valley of the Little Bighorn with Lt. Colonel George Custer.

Location: Take Highway 212 east of Crow Agency for 25 miles, then south 20 miles on Secondary 314, then 3 miles west on county road. The last 1.5 miles are on unpaved road. Phone: 406-234-0900



The Expeditions of Lewis, Clark and You

Follow in the footsteps of Captains William Clark and Meriwether Lewis and the Corps of Discovery to behold the landmarks described in their journals. Other state parks located along the Lewis and Clark trail include Black Sandy, Lewis and Clark Caverns, Parker Homestead, Madison Buffalo Jump, Fort Owen, Painted Rocks, Pictograph Cave, Chief Plenty Coups, and Makoshika.

Giant Springs - National Historic Landmark

As Captain Lewis searched for a portage route around the Great Falls of the Missouri, he described a spring that "boils up from under the rocks near the edge of the river and falls immediately into the river 8 feet, and keeps its colour for 1/2 mile which is immensely clear and of a bluish cast." One of the largest freshwater springs in the world, Giant Springs flows at 156 million gallons of water a day. Picnic by the Missouri River, visit the adjacent fish hatchery, walk along the River's Edge Trail, or visit the neighboring Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Location: Northeast edge of Great Falls,
3 miles east of U.S. 87 on River Drive.
Phone: 406-454-5840



MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498

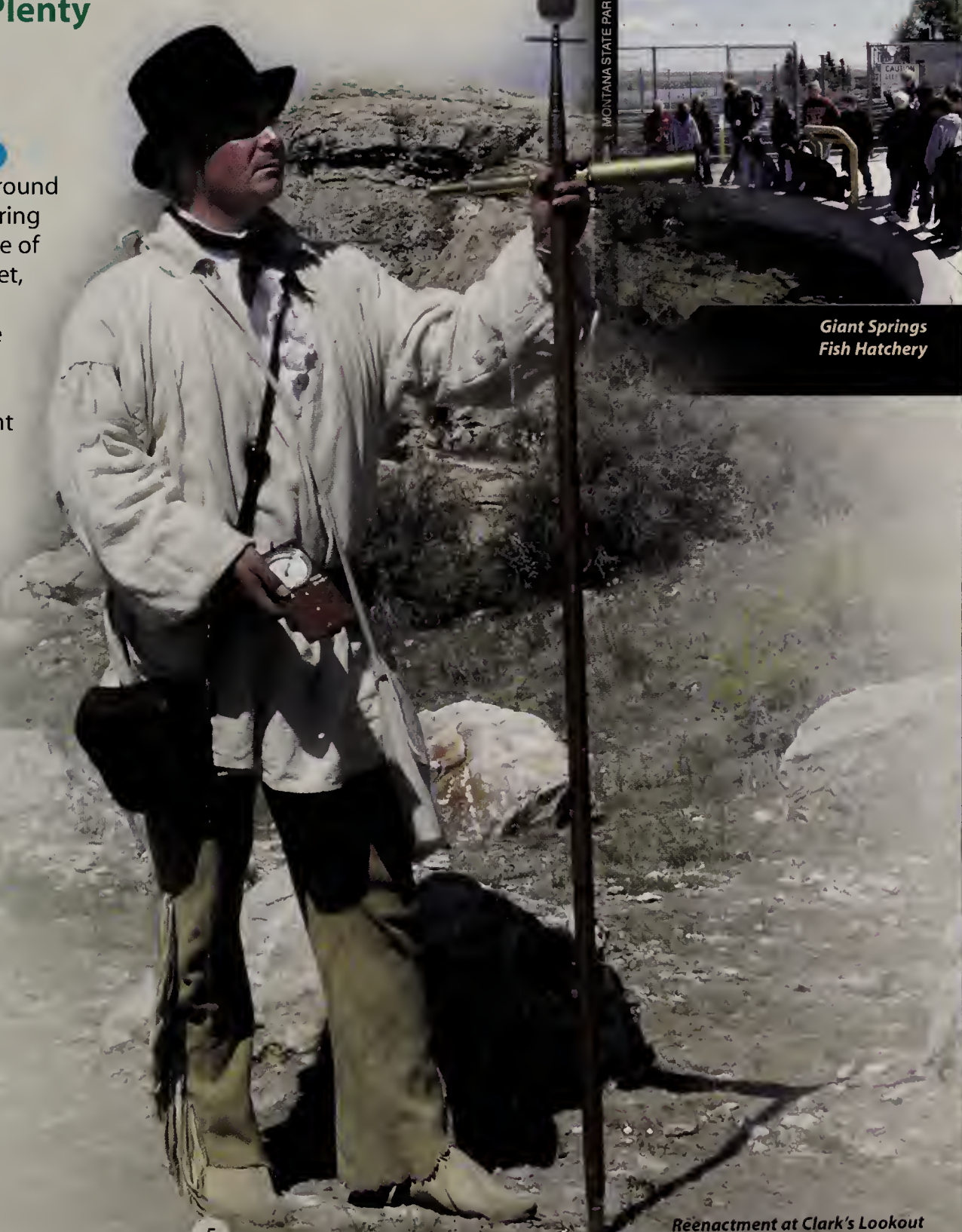
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Giant Springs



*Giant Springs
Fish Hatchery*



Reenactment at Clark's Lookout



Tower Rock



Missouri Headwaters



Beaverhead Rock



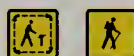
Lewis and Clark Festival at Giant Springs

MONTANA
Steve Akre
Phil Farnes
MONTANA STATE PARKS 1049B-2.05
John Lambing
MONTANA STATE PARKS 1049B-2.05
Travel Montana

Tower Rock

Tower Rock is a landmark noted by Captain Meriwether Lewis in his journal on July 16, 1805. This igneous rock formation is 424 feet high and stands in the mouth of the canyon where the Missouri River flows from the mountains to the plains. Lewis took astronomical measurements from the site and noted "immense herds of buffalo" on the plains below. This site, which became a state park in 2004, will be developed with trails and interpretive signage.

Location: Hardy Creek exit off I-15, about 40 miles south of Great Falls.
Phone: 406-454-5840



Missouri Headwaters - National Historic Landmark

On July 27, 1805, Captain Lewis stood on top of a limestone cliff and saw the three rivers that formed the Missouri River and called this place "an essential point in the geography of this western part of the continent." He named the tributaries Madison, Gallatin and Jefferson after the President and two Cabinet members who financed the expedition. Interpretive signs, picnic spots, short hiking trails, a campground and rental tipi all make this park a convenient, informative and fun stop.

Location: 4 miles off I-90 at the Three Forks exit.
Phone: 406-994-4042



Beaverhead Rock

As the expedition moved into the area of current day Dillon, Sacagawea recognized a landmark indicating a spot where her people, the Shoshone, often camped in the summer. The captains thought this was a good sign because they were hoping to obtain horses for their trip across the Rocky Mountains. The Shoshone called the landmark "Beaver's Head," because the natural formation resembles the head of a swimming beaver.

Location: The best viewing spot is the pullout along Hwy. 41 about 12 miles north of Dillon (at mile marker 13) where the interpretive sign is located. Phone: 406-834-3413

Discover Lewis and



Lewis and Clark Festival at Giant Springs

er the Clark Sites.

Clark's Lookout Captain William Clark climbed a rock outcropping overlooking the Beaverhead River to scout what lay ahead for the expedition on August 13, 1805. He took compass readings to the Beaver's Head, the course of the Wisdom (Big Hole) River, and to the gap where the river passed through the mountains. Interpretive signage explains the navigational techniques used by the Expedition. Walk the trail to the top of this promontory to stand where Captain Clark stood and view the surrounding scenery. A beautiful granite monument at the summit depicts the three compass readings Clark took on that summer day.

Location: Located 1 mile north of Dillon on Highway 91
Phone: 406-834-3413



Travelers' Rest The Corps of Discovery established the Travelers' Rest campsite on September 9, 1805 as the group took a much-needed break before their arduous journey over the Rockies. The Expedition camped here a second time on their return journey in 1806. Archaeologists have found evidence of the Corps' latrine and cooking fire, making this site one of only two sites in the nation with physical proof that Lewis and Clark were there. Call for the schedule of regular interpretive programs or make special arrangements for a group visit.

Location: .5 mile west of Lolo on Hwy 12.
Phone: 406-273-4253



Pirogue Island Captain Clark and his men, Sacagawea and baby Pomp, are believed to have camped on Pirogue Island, near present day Miles City, on their return trip east to St. Louis on July 29, 1806. Isolated and shaded by cottonwood trees, this Yellowstone River island offers visitors an excellent spot to view wildlife and to hunt for moss agates. The site is a haven for waterfowl, bald eagles, and whitetail and mule deer.

Location: 1 mile north of Miles City on Montana 59, then 2 miles east on Kinsey Road, then 2 miles south on county road. Phone: 406-234-0900



MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Clark's Lookout

Norm Jacobson
MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Travelers' Rest

Ron Boggs

MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Pirogue Island

Travel Montana

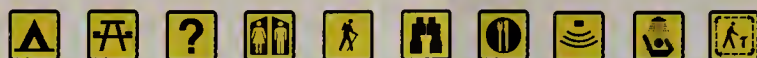


Natural Sites

Lewis and Clark Caverns

Montana's first state park features some of the deepest and most spectacular limestone caverns in the Northwest. Explore the colorful stalagmites, stalactites, columns, and flowstone on an informative and entertaining two-hour guided tour. The walking tour is 2 miles long, including a 300 feet rise in elevation to the cave entrance and a total of 500 stairs down and 100 stairs up inside the caverns. The park also features hiking trails, evening interpretive programs, visitor center, store, deli, reservable group shelter and three rental cabins. Fee charged for Caverns tour.

Location: 19 Miles west of Three Forks on Montana Hwy. 2. Easily reached from Bozeman, Butte, Helena, Virginia City and I-90. Phone: 406-287-3541



Lewis and Clark Caverns

Makoshika

Rising from the Yellowstone valley and surrounding prairies is a broad expanse of badlands. Hogback ridges, fluted hillsides, pinnacles, and caprocks ornament a network of buttes. Here in the Hell Creek formation, 10 species of Cretaceous-Age dinosaurs have been found, including *Triceratops*, *Edmontosaurus* and *T-rex*. Makoshika's *Thescelosaurus* was a rare find, and likely the most complete (well-articulated) specimen of this species ever found. It is undergoing study at the Museum of the Rockies. The park features a visitor center, campground, hiking trails, picnic areas, rifle and archery range, amphitheater, and lots of scenic vistas! Makoshika is a place for recreation, education, and contemplation – an escape from the everyday.

Location: Located at the southeast edge of Glendive. Follow the signs through town - Merrill Avenue to Barry Street to Taylor Avenue. Phone: 406-377-6256



Makoshika

Medicine Rocks

Weathering has given the soft sandstone rock formations in this scenic 320-acre park a Swiss-cheese look. "As fantastically beautiful a place as I have ever seen," said one of its first tourists in the late 1800s, a young rancher named Teddy Roosevelt. The park is a haven for mule deer, antelope, and sharp tailed grouse.

Location: 25 Miles south of Baker on Montana Hwy 7. Phone: 406-234-0900



Medicine Rocks

Greycliff Prairie Dog Town

Black-tailed prairie dogs are very social animals that live in "towns" and engage in social activities such as communicating and grooming each other. This is a great place to stretch your legs, enjoy a picnic, view some critters and learn about the important role these animals play in the prairie ecosystem. Walk in only from October - April.

Location: Nine miles east of Big Timber at I-90 exit 377. Phone: 406-247-2940



Greycliff Prairie Dog Town

Lone Pine With spectacular views of the magnificent Flathead Valley and Glacier National Park, one can learn about the area's cultural and natural history at this park. A visitor center offers nature and interpretive programs and there are opportunities for picnics, hiking along a self-guided nature trail, and extensive hiking, biking, and horse trails. A resource room can be reserved for meetings and gatherings, and a covered shelter is available for outdoor gatherings. The park also offers a 7-target archery range.

Location: 5 miles southwest of Kalispell. Follow U.S. Hwy 2 to Meridian Road, then south on Meridian to Foys Lake Road, then to Lone Pine Road. Phone: 406-752-5501



Sluice Boxes In this area of pristine beauty and historical mining significance, one can see remains of silver and lead mines, railroad trestles, and historic cabins lining Belt Creek as it winds through a beautiful canyon carved in limestone. A primitive trail provides access to fishing, challenging floats, and wildlife viewing.

Location: 15 miles south of Belt on U.S. Hwy. 89 on the Kings Hill Scenic Highway, then 2 miles west on county road 340. Phone: 406-454-5840



Back Country

Lost Creek The varied wildlife, unusual geologic formations, forested canyon and picturesque Lost Creek Falls provide visitors with a unique outdoor experience. Interpretive displays on a paved, disabled-accessible trail leading to the waterfall describe the unique geology of the area. Look for mountain goats and bighorn sheep in the area. 7-day camp limit.

Location: 1.5 miles east of Anaconda on Montana Hwy. 1, then 2 miles north on Hwy. 273, then 6 miles west. Phone: 406-542-5500



Wild Horse Island - (on Flathead Lake) Boat access only to this day-use park helps regulate and protect the 2,000-acre island. It preserves an endangered palouse prairie environment, incredible wildlife, and historic resources. Check with park staff on the best ways to reach the island and its trails and views. Visitors enjoy trout fishing and can view rare prairie plant species, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer and wild horses.

Location: Across from Big Arm State Park via boat to Little Skeeko Bay on the northwest side of island. Phone : 406-752-5501

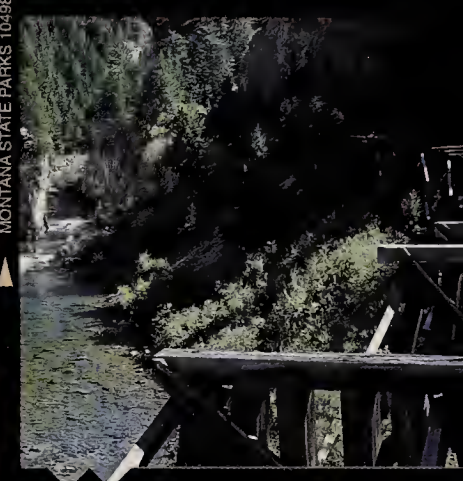


MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Lone Pine

MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Sluice Boxes

MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Lost Creek



Wild Horse Island



Ackley Lake



Beavertail Hill



Big Arm



Black Sandy

Water-Based Recreation

Ackley Lake Ackley Lake, named after an early settler and frontiersman, is a grassland park offering a variety of year-round water sports opportunities. Facilities include restrooms, campsites, boat ramps and fire rings. Motorized boating and water-skiing permitted. Excellent rainbow and brown trout fishing.

Location: Travel 17 miles west of Lewistown on Hwy. 87 to Hobson, the 5 miles south on Montana Hwy. 400, then 2 miles southwest on county road. Phone: 406-454-5840



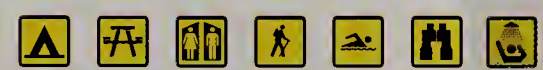
Beavertail Hill Situated along the Clark Fork River, watchable wildlife and fishing opportunities abound in this park. A one-mile disabled-accessible self-guided nature trail points out many of the natural features of the riparian zone in which the park is located. In addition to RV and tent camping, this park also features the unique opportunity to rent a full-size tipi for the night.

Location: Just off I-90 at exit #130 (26 miles east of Missoula). Phone: 406-542-5500



Big Arm - (on Flathead Lake) This 217-acre park on Flathead Lake's Big Arm Bay is a popular launching spot to access Wild Horse Island. In addition to tent and RV camping, there are three furnished yurts for rent. Explore the nature trail, hiking/horseback trail and mountain bike trail. This is a popular spot for swimmers, sunbathers and Canada geese watchers.

Location: 14 miles north of Polson on U.S. Highway 93 on the west shore. Phone: 406-752-5501



Black Sandy - (on Hauser Lake) On the shore of beautiful Hauser Lake, this recreational area offers camping, swimming, year-round fishing, boating, boat ramp, hiking trail, and interpretive signs about hydroelectric power being generated in the area. Located along the route taken by Lewis and Clark in 1805 up the Missouri River.

Location: 7 miles north of Helena on I-15 to Lincoln Road exit, then 4 miles east on Hwy 435 to county Road. Go north 3 miles and follow the signs to the park. Phone 406-495-3260



Brush Lake

Cooney Enjoy year-round outdoor activities at this popular recreation area near Red Lodge and the Beartooth Mountains. Four campgrounds, boating, swimming, and fishing are popular in the spring, summer, and fall. Ice fishing, cross-country skiing and ice skating can be enjoyed during the winter. Wildlife viewing and birding are other popular activities.

Location: 22 miles southwest of Laurel on U.S. 212, then 5 miles west of Boyd on the county road. Alternate Route: 4 miles south of Columbus on MT Hwy. 78, then 14 miles southeast on Shane Creek Road (gravel). Phone: 406-247-2940



Finley Point - (on Flathead Lake) This secluded campground is located in a mature conifer forest near the south end of the lake. Boat slips at the 16-slip marina may be rented nightly to moor boats or for an on-board camping experience. 12 RV sites and four boat slips have electrical service and water hookups.

Location: 11 miles north of Polson on Montana 35, then 4 miles west on county road on the east shore. Phone: 406-752-5501



Frenchtown Pond This man-made lake is a popular recreation area for swimming, fishing, sun-bathing, scuba diving, non-motorized boating, picnicking and much more. The reservable group shelters offer an excellent site for large family gatherings, company picnics, and school groups. Sportfish include large mouth bass, black bullheads, yellow perch and pumpkin seeds.

Location: 15 miles west of Missoula on I-90 at exit 89. Phone 406-542-5500



Hell Creek - (on Fort Peck Reservoir) Fort Peck Reservoir, a spectacularly scenic lake with over 1,600 miles of shoreline, is world-renowned for its walleye fishing. Offering the only public access on the south shore of the lake, Hell Creek's amenities include a full-service marina and store, fish cleaning station, and playground. Motel rooms and rental cabins are available through www.hellcreekmarina.com or by calling 406-557-2345. A careful observer with a geological perspective can travel in time to visit the remains of a Montana ocean, a tropical beach, and a land once trodden by *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Location: Travel 25 miles north of Jordan on the county road. Inquire locally about current road conditions. Phone: 406-234-0900



Brush Lake Brush Lake became part of the state park system in 2004, and is northeastern Montana's first state park. This mile-long lake, with its impressive turquoise color and sandy beaches, is ideal for swimming, motorized boating and water skiing. Due to the mineral make-up of Brush Lake there are no fish and very little aquatic vegetation. Recreational developments for a day-use area are planned for July 2006, and will be located on the northeast portion of the lake. Improvements will include a restroom, boat ramp, boat dock, a designated swimming area, picnic tables and fire rings.

Location: 31 miles southeast of Plentywood. Off State Highway 16, go east on Highway 258 (East Reserve Highway) for 16.5 miles, turn south on Brush Lake county road, go 1 mile. Phone: 406-228-3700



July
2006

Linda Meredith

MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Cooney



Finley Point



Frenchtown Pond

MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Hell Creek



Lake Elmo



Lake Mary Ronan



Logan



Painted Rocks

MONTANA

Ron Boggs

MONTANA STATE PARKS 1049B-2.05

MONTANA STATE PARKS 1049B-2.05

Lake Elmo Enjoy the pleasures of a natural setting – without leaving the city! Open year-round, this park offers an abundance of recreational opportunities, including swimming, fishing, picnicking, wind surfing, hiking, cross country skiing, ice fishing, group pavilion available for rent, and an interpretive center at the nearby Fish, Wildlife and Parks regional headquarters. A great place for travelers to cool off!

Location: In Billings, take U.S. 87 north (through Billings Heights) to Pemberton Lane, then .5 mile west. Phone: 406-247-2940



Lake Mary Ronan Seven miles west of Flathead Lake, nestled between the Salish and Mission mountain ranges is beautiful Lake Mary Ronan. Off the beaten path, this shady park provides a quiet opportunity to pick huckleberries, hunt mushrooms, spot interesting birds, camp and swim. The lake is stocked with salmon, trout, bass and perch and fishing is excellent!

Location: 23 miles north of Polson on U.S. 93 at Dayton, then 7 miles northwest. Phone: 406-752-5501



Logan - (on Middle Thompson Lake) Nestled in a mature forest on the banks of Middle Thompson Lake, Logan State Park is surrounded by the Thompson Chain of Lakes. Logan is a comfortable spot for picnicking, swimming, boating, camping, and water skiing. Fishing is spectacular with over 15 fishable lakes within a few minutes of the park. Fishing for trout, kokanee salmon, bass and many other varieties of fish can be excellent.

Location: 45 miles west of Kalispell on U.S. Highway 2. Phone: 406-752-5501



Painted Rocks Surrounded by the Bitterroot Range which rises to an elevation of 10,700 feet, Painted Rocks offers a multitude of recreational opportunities in a scenic, western pine forest setting. Open year-round, winter opportunities include snowshoeing, cross country skiing and wildlife viewing. Summer activities include camping and hiking, as well as boating and fishing on Painted Rocks reservoir, where water levels may fluctuate.

Location: 17 miles south of Hamilton on U.S. Hwy. 93, then 23 miles southwest on Route 473 (West Fork Road). Phone: 406-542-5500



Placid Lake As the name implies, Placid Lake provides a peaceful escape where visitors can participate in many lake-related recreational activities. This park provides easy, accessible viewing of many species of birds such as Red-necked Grebes, waterfowl, osprey and Common Loons. Interpretive panels explain early-day logging practices in the area.

Location: Take Highway 83 about 10 miles north of Hwy. 200, then follow the signs to the park, which is 3 miles west of the highway. Phone: 406-542-5500



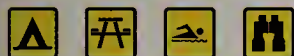
Salmon Lake This woodland setting of western larch, ponderosa pine and Douglas fir is perfect for all types of lake-related recreational activities such as fishing, canoeing, water skiing, and boating. A trail between the campground and day-use area provides a spot for picnicking and bird watching, while the long shoreline is great for swimming.

Location: On Highway 83 about 7 miles north of Hwy. 200. Phone: 406-542-5500



Smith River Permits are required to float the stretch of Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. Noted for its spectacular scenery and blue-ribbon trout fishery, the Smith River is unique in that it has only one public put-in and one public take-out for the entire 59-mile segment of river. Boat camps located along the remote river canyon help preserve the unique quality of this area.

Location: 16 miles northwest of White Sulphur Springs on secondary 360, then 7 miles north on county road. Phone: 406-454-5840



Back
Country

Spring Meadow Lake This scenic location, with its view of Mt. Helena, is a popular recreation area the whole family can enjoy. Fed by natural springs, Spring Meadow provides opportunities for swimming, fishing, scuba diving, and picnicking. The nature trail circles the lake and is home to a variety of birds and other wildlife. Plan to attend an evening Discovery Series presentation offered once each week throughout the summer.

Location: From Helena, travel west on U.S. Hwy 12, then north on Joslyn Street to Country Club Avenue. Phone: 406-495-3260



MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Placid Lake

Christine Jewett
MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Salmon Lake

MONTANA STATE PARKS 10498-2.05



Smith River

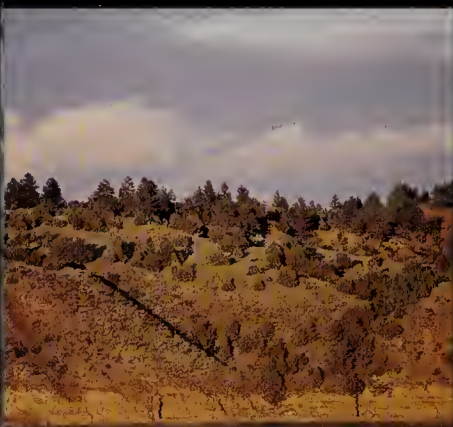
Travel Montana



Spring Meadow Lake



Thompson Falls



Tongue River Reservoir



Wayfarers



West Shore

Thompson Falls - (on Clark Fork River) This mature pine forest park is cool and off the beaten track. Located on the banks of the scenic Clark Fork River, visitors enjoy camping, walking, birding and excellent fishing for trout and smallmouth bass. The park features a boat launch, picnic tables and 17 campsites. Reservable covered shelters and a group campsite are available for large gatherings.

Location: 1 mile northwest of Thompson Falls on Montana Hwy. 200. Phone: 406-752-5501



Tongue River Reservoir Situated among scenic red shale, juniper canyons and the open prairies of southeastern Montana is a 12-mile long reservoir on the Tongue River. Boating and other water sports are popular here, and the park boasts excellent bass, crappie, walleye, and northern pike fishing. Services at the site include fuel, boat rental, fish cleaning station, groceries, and LP gas refill.

Location: 6 miles north of Decker on Secondary 314, then 1 mile west on county road. Phone: 406-234-0900



Wayfarers - (on Flathead Lake) Wayfarers is a popular stop for visitors who enjoy nature walks with excellent lake views and abundant wildflowers. Set in a mature forest with a quiet campground, beach, boat launch, picnic areas, wooded hiking trails, reservable group shelter and the most spectacular sunsets on Flathead Lake. Located within walking distance of Bigfork, so you can take in a meal or a play at the Bigfork Summer Playhouse.

Location: .5 mile south of Bigfork on Montana Highway 35 on the east shore. Phone: 406-752-5501



West Shore - (on Flathead Lake) Located in a mature pine, fir and larch forest, this park's glacially-carved rock outcrops offer spectacular views of Flathead Lake and the Mission and Swan Mountain Ranges. Facilities include 26 campsites, hiking trails, potable water and a boat ramp. Fishing for lake trout can be excellent at this park.

Location: 20 miles south of Kalispell on U.S. Hwy 93 on the west shore. Phone: 406-752-5501



Whitefish Lake Along the shore of beautiful Whitefish Lake, this 10-acre park provides a mature forest, pleasant campground, and a beach. Boating, swimming and fishing are popular activities and the lake is rarely windy so it provides ideal conditions for water skiing. Railroad buffs love the trains that rumble along the park's edge.

Location: 1 mile west of Whitefish on U.S. Hwy 93, then 1 mile north. Phone: 406-752-5501



Yellow Bay - (on Flathead Lake) This park features four walk-in tent camping spots and a wide, sandy beach for swimming, sunbathing, scuba diving, boating, fishing, and bird watching. In season, stop at the fruit stands nearby that feature the famous Flathead sweet cherries.

Location: 15 miles north of Polson on Montana Hwy. 35 on the east shore. Phone: 406-752-5501



www.LNT.org

Montana State Parks is proud to be a partner in the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. Please practice these principles when recreating in our great outdoors.

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



Whitefish Lake



Yellow Bay



Fishing on the Yellowstone



Blackfoot River

Other Recreational Opportunities

Fishing Access Sites These 320 sites, managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, provide public access to rivers and lakes throughout the state. Check with regional FWP offices for local fish species and fishing conditions. Many sites offer overnight camping, with some charging a camping fee. Pick up the Fishing Access Guide at an FWP office to find out which sites also offer boat launch opportunities.

Flathead Lake Marine Trail Framed by the peaks of the Mission, Swan and Salish mountains, Flathead Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. The Marine Trail is a network of access points, stopovers and campsites around the lake for those wishing to explore its crystal clear waters, islands and shoreline with human or wind-powered "beachable" watercraft. The Marine Trail map lists public areas where access and camping are allowed, approximate paddling distances between them, and available facilities. State Parks on the lake have campsites along the water reserved until 6 p.m. for campers who arrive by human-powered boats.

Phone: 406-752-5501

Thompson Chain of Lakes This 3,000-acre area provides visitors with many different recreational opportunities including fishing for lake trout and smallmouth bass, camping, boating, swimming, and some of the most outstanding wildlife viewing in Northwest Montana.

Location: 35 to 55 miles west of Kalispell, consists of 21 lakes and 56 campsites.

Phone: 406-752-5501

Alberton Gorge The famed Alberton Gorge, with its incredible scenery and recreational treasures, makes a perfect family trip on a hot summer day. Located 35 miles west of Missoula, the Gorge is a canyon section of the Clark Fork River with Class II and III whitewater. Many commercial outfitters offer raft trips or you may take your own raft or kayak. Best time to run this river is July & August, after the high water. For more information call 406-542-5500.

Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor Exceptional scenery and classic trout habitat combine to make the lower stretch of the Blackfoot River one of the more popular rivers in Montana for fly fishing, rafting and just relaxing. Just east of Missoula, the Corridor is a partnership between landowners, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to provide protection of natural resources and private property and to provide public safety along 26 miles of river.

For detailed information about the area and Special Recreation Permits, contact 406-677-6804 or 406-542-5500.

Flathead Lake
Marine Trail

Thompson Chain
of Lakes

Alberton Gorge



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

Accommodations

Reserve a yurt, tipi or cabin for added adventure at a Montana State Park. It's a great way to camp without pounding a stake or leveling a rig. A yurt is a circular, domed tent used for centuries by nomadic tribes of Siberia. Our yurts at Big Arm State Park, which sleep up to six people, are complete with beds, tables, a lockable door, electricity, and a deck with incredible views of Flathead Lake.

Sioux-style tipis are located at Beavertail Hill, Bannack, Lewis and Clark Caverns and Missouri Headwaters state parks. The 18-foot diameter canvas tipis can comfortably sleep six to eight people. They have no furnishings, but do have indoor, outdoor carpeting and a picnic table and fire grill located outside. The cabins at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Parks are a peaceful, comfortable retreat at the end of a day of adventuring. Each cabin contains a double bed, bunk beds, table with chairs, electricity and heat. Cooking grills are located outside each cabin and flush toilets and shower facilities are a short walk away. Call individual Park directly for reservations.

Park Fee Information

Montana residents arriving in a vehicle with valid Montana license plates are allowed to enter State Parks for free. Camping, tour, special event and other fees still apply.

Nonresident visitors are required to pay day-use fees, which can range from \$2 to \$5. If you prefer, you may obtain an annual Montana State Parks Passport for unlimited use. Passports are \$25 for the first vehicle and \$20 for additional vehicles. They can be purchased at any state park, regional FWP office or online at fwp.mt.gov/parks. Federal passports, such as Golden Eagle, Golden Age and Golden Access, are not valid in Montana State Parks.

Disabled Accessibility

It is the intent of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to provide facilities and programs that accommodate the needs of all, including people with disabilities, and to enhance the outdoor experience for all individuals given the limitations of natural and physical features. For a complete list of accessible sites, visit our web page at fwp.mt.gov and click on "Accessibility" at the bottom of the page. Further information on accessibility can be obtained by contacting individual park areas at the phone numbers listed.



Rental Cabin at Lewis and Clark Caverns



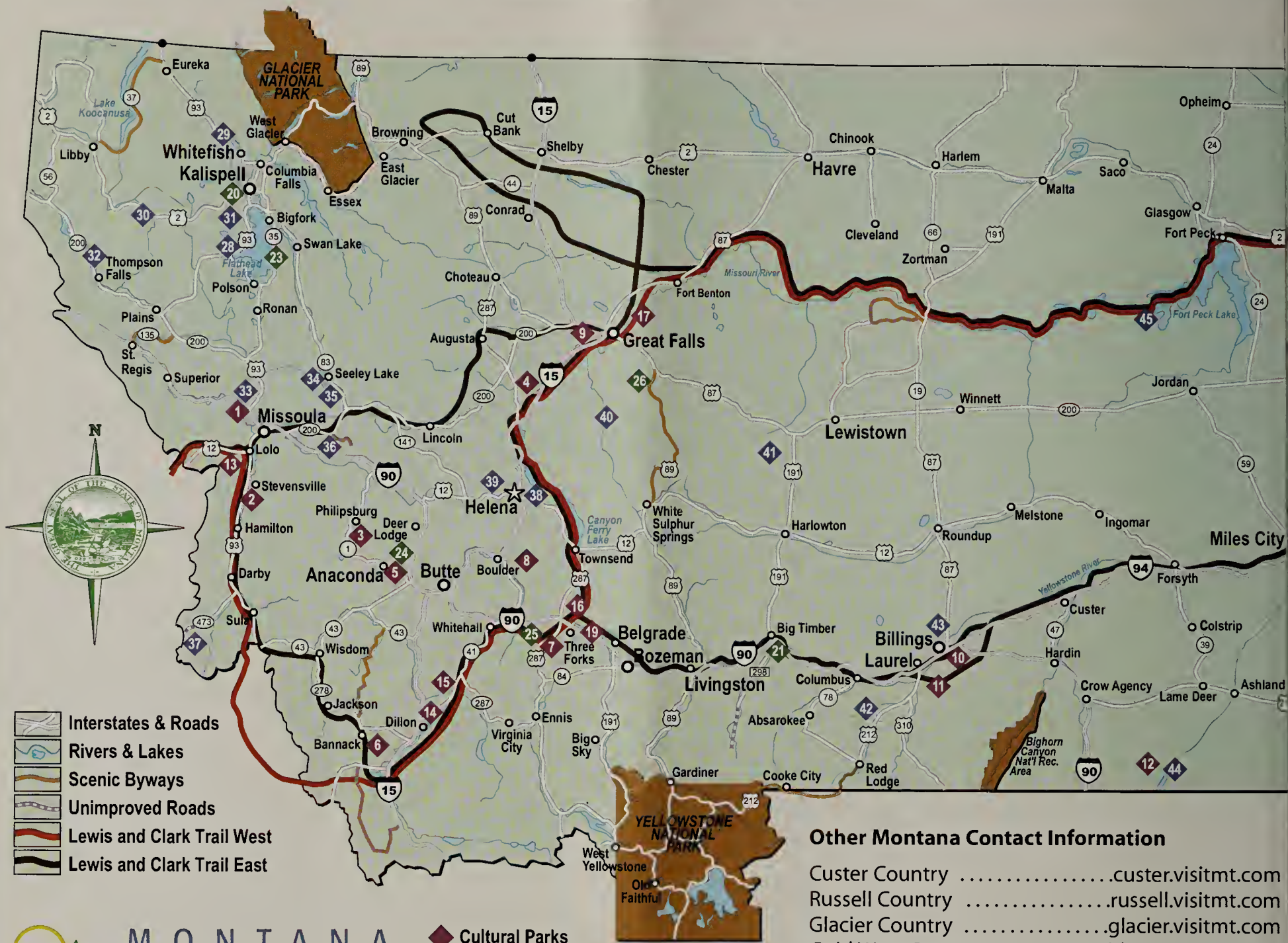
Bannack



*Day of Honor
Chief Plenty Coups*



Bannack Days



MONTANA State Parks

- ◆ Cultural Parks
- ◆ Natural Parks
- ◆ Water-based Parks

Other Montana Contact Information

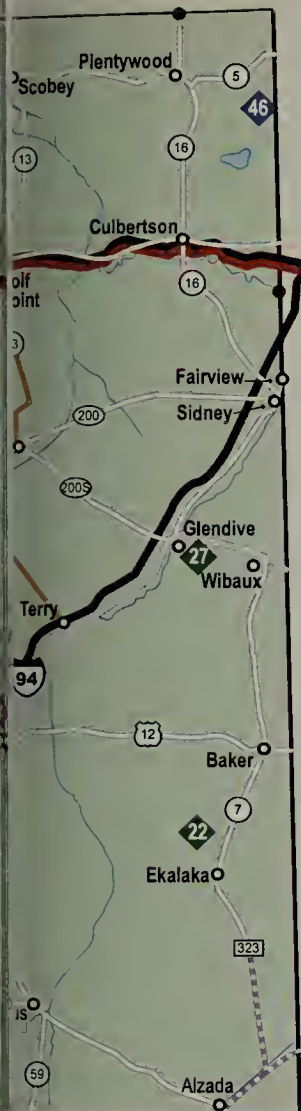
Custer Countrycuster.visitmt.com
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 Gold West Countrygoldwest.visitmt.com
 Missouri River Country ...missouririver.visitmt.com
 Yellowstone Countryyellowstone.visitmt.com

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|---|---|---|--|---|
| ◆ 1 Council Grove* | ◆ 12 Rosebud Battlefield* | ◆ 23 Wild Horse Island* | ◆ 29 Whitefish Lake | ◆ 40 Smith River |
| ◆ 2 Fort Owen* | ◆ 13 Travelers' Rest* | ◆ 24 Lost Creek | ◆ 30 Logan | ◆ 41 Ackley Lake |
| ◆ 3 Granite* | ◆ 14 Clark's Lookout* | ◆ 25 Lewis and Clark Caverns | ◆ 31 Lake Mary Ronan | ◆ 42 Cooney |
| ◆ 4 Tower Rock* | ◆ 15 Beaverhead Rock* | ◆ 26 Sluice Boxes | ◆ 32 Thompson Falls | ◆ 43 Lake Elmo* |
| ◆ 5 Anaconda Smelter Stack* | ◆ 16 Missouri Headwaters | ◆ 27 Makoshika | ◆ 33 Frenchtown Pond* | ◆ 44 Tongue River Reservoir |
| ◆ 6 Bannack | ◆ 17 Giant Springs* | ◆ 28 Flathead Lake | ◆ 34 Placid Lake | ◆ 45 Hell Creek |
| ◆ 7 Parker Homestead* | ◆ 18 Pirogue Island* | Big Arm | ◆ 35 Salmon Lake | ◆ 46 Brush Lake* |
| ◆ 8 Elkhorn* | ◆ 19 Madison Buffalo Jump* | Finley Point | ◆ 36 Beavertail Hill | |
| ◆ 9 Ulm Pishkun* | ◆ 20 Lone Pine* | Wayfarers | ◆ 37 Painted Rocks | |
| ◆ 10 Pictograph Cave* | ◆ 21 Greycliff Prairie Dog Town* | West Shore | ◆ 38 Black Sandy | |
| ◆ 11 Chief Plenty Coups* | ◆ 22 Medicine Rocks | Yellow Bay | ◆ 39 Spring Meadow Lake* | |

*Day Use Only

Camping

Campsites in Montana State Park campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Most campsites provide basic facilities – level pad, picnic table and fire ring. The table below lists additional amenities at each site, such as showers, dump stations and boat ramps. You will be asked to use a self-pay registration system when you find a campsite. Park staff will visit you later during your stay.



- = Disabled Access
- ▲ = Camping
- ⬡ = Picnicking
- = Shelter
- ★ = Available
- 🐎 = Lewis and Clark Site

	Page Number	Group Facilities ²	Tent Sites	Trailer Sites	Disabled Campsite	Flush Toilets	Showers	Drinking Water	Dump Station ³	Maximum RV Length ¹	Boat Ramp	Swimming	Rental Accommodations	Season ⁴
Ackley Lake	10	▲●	3	20						24'	★	★		All Year
Bannack	2	▲●	14	14				★		50'			1 Tipi	All Year
Beavertail Hill	10		14	14	1	★		★		28'			2 Tipis	5/1-9/30
Big Arm	10	▲●■	9	31		●	●	★		40'	★	★	3 Yurts	5/1-9/30
Black Sandy	10		4	29	2	●		★	★	35'	●	★		All Year
Cooney	11		6	70	2	●	●	★		30'	●	★		All Year
Finley Point	11		4	16	1	●		★		40'	●	★		5/1-9/30
Hell Creek	11	▲●■	15	40		★	●	★	★	50'	★	★	*See Page 11	All Year
Lake Mary Ronan	12	▲	12	24				★		35'	●			5/31-9/30
Lewis & Clark Caverns	8	▲●■	20	20	1	●	●	★	★	None			Cabins, Tipi	All Year
Logan	12	▲●	5	41	2	★	★	★	★	40'	●	★		All Year
Lost Creek	9		5	20	1			★		23'				5/1-11/30
Makoshika	8	▲●■	8	14	1			★		40'				All Year
Medicine Rocks	8	▲●	6	6				★		50'				All Year
Missouri Headwaters 🐎	6	▲●	3	20	1	★		★		35'			1 Tipi	5/1-9/30
Painted Rocks	12		5	20						25'	★			All Year
Placid Lake	13		20	20	2	●	★	★	★	25'	●	★		5/1-11/30
Salmon Lake	13		10	10	1	●	★	★	★	25'	★	★		5/1-9/30
Thompson Falls	14	▲■●	3	14				★		30'	★	★		5/1-9/30
Tongue River Reservoir	14		16	90				★	★	50'	★	★		All Year
Wayfarers	14	●■	7	23	1	●	●	★	★	40'	●	★		5/1-9/30
West Shore	14		6	20	1			★		40'	★	★		5/1-9/30
Whitefish Lake	15	●■	6	25	1	●	●	★		35'	●	★		All Year
Yellow Bay	15	●■	4	1		★		★		30'	★	★		5/1-9/30

- ¹ Maximum length is the combined length of towing unit and trailer(s).
- ² Most group facilities are reservable. Please call individual Park for details.
- ³ Dump station for Salmon Lake and Placid Lake is located at rest area at junction of MT 200 and MT 83.
- ⁴ Limited facilities may be available from September to May. Check with Park directly.

- ◆ Reservable shelters are available at Frenchtown Pond, Giant Springs, Lake Elmo, Lone Pine and Spring Meadow Lake.
- ◆ Reservable picnic areas are available at Chief Plenty Coups, Pictograph Cave and Ulm Pishkun. Meeting rooms available at Lone Pine and Ulm Pishkun.
- ◆ Most camp sites include picnic table and fire ring. No utility hook-ups, except at Finley Point where there are 12 RV sites and electricity and water. All campgrounds have vault toilets unless noted. Pack in-pack out trash at Lost Creek, Painted Rocks, Medicine Rocks, and Missouri Headwaters.

Under the Big Sky

of Montana you'll discover some of the greatest natural and cultural treasures on earth. From stunning scenery and dazzling waters to geologic wonders and cultural history, Montana State Parks offer something for everyone. The diverse recreational and educational opportunities make this a great place to live and a special place to visit. We hope to see you in a State Park soon.

Brush Lake
Matt Long

If you need immediate emergency assistance call: **911**

To report vandalism call: **1-800-TIP-MONT** (1-800-847-6668)
Your call can be anonymous. You may be eligible for a reward.

For more information about Montana State Parks:

1-406-444-3750

email: **fwpprk@mt.gov**

web: **www.fwp.mt.gov/parks**

P.O. Box 200701 · Helena, MT 59620-0701

For general Montana travel information:

1-800-VISIT-MT

www.visitmt.com

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

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